

EUSTIS

AND THE LAKE REGION OF
LAKE COUNTY,
FLORIDA



CITIZENS' EDITION

To F.S.L.
the
Man
of
the
North

STATE LIBRARY

A LAND OF SUNSHINE AND REST

For all those who Seek
Health and Pleasure.

To
the
Man
of
the
North

F.S.L.

FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY



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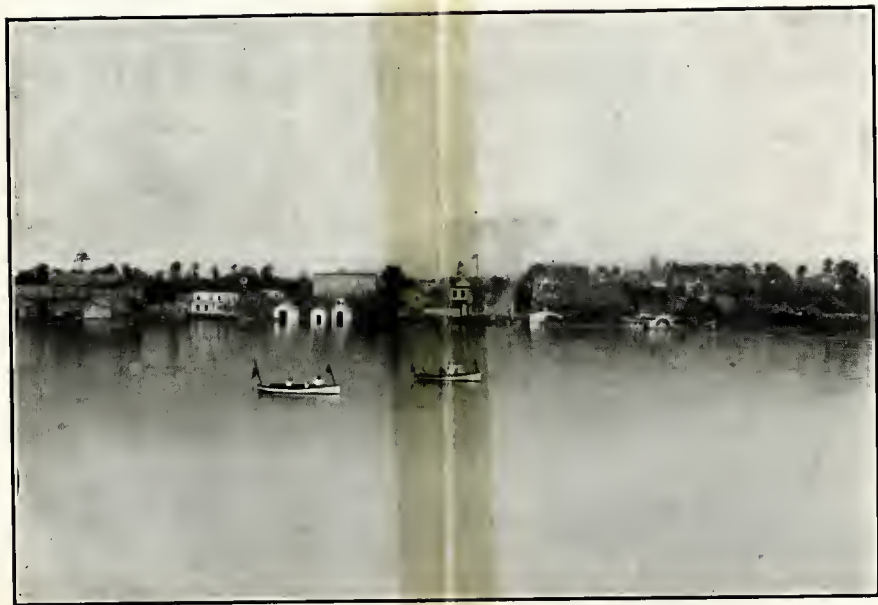
HAUNT OF THE ALLIGATOR—ON THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER

To The Man of the North

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WHEN the mercury in your thermometer is sinking to the bottom of the tube, and the price of coal is soaring into the highest heavens; when the slush is a foot deep in front of your door, or the ground is so slippery with ice that your neck is in danger at every step; when your housepipes are bursting, and the plumbers' union is making desperate attempts to force you into bankruptcy, or the lunatic asylum; when your wife is down with pneumonia, your children ill with diphtheria or whooping-cough, and you yourself have a cold that renders life a burden; when you waste hours every morning dreading to leave your bed, and spend your spare moments during the day sitting on a steam register—then, if you have not done so sooner, you will begin to think of coming to Florida, the land of bright days, balmy nights, sunshine and oranges. Having made up your mind on this score, take down your atlas and turn to a map of the Southern States. There you will see our great peninsula pointing like the forefinger of the continent toward the equator. Close to the twenty-ninth parallel, near the center of the State, is EUSTIS, the Queen City of the famous Lake Region; the highest, driest, most beautifully situated and most healthful winter resort in Florida.



EUSTIS FROM THE LAKE—RESIDENCE PORTION TO THE RIGHT



OFF FOR A FROLIC—PART OF THE EUSTIS FLEET READY TO START

Situation

If the map you have consulted is one that shows the elevations of the surface, you will observe that there is a strip of high country about thirty miles wide, running southward from the Georgia line through the middle of the peninsula, and coming to an end about half way down. This strip has an altitude of from one to four hundred feet from sea level; the rest of the State is in no place more than a hundred. Near the southern extremity of the ridge is Eustis. It stands on the side of a gently sloping hill, on the east shore of the lake of the same name. Most of Florida is flat, monotonous, desolate to the eye; this part of it is undulating, heavily wooded, abounding in delightful scenery, and thickly gemmed with clear water lakes. The Northern visitor, it is true, may at first miss the brilliant foliage and green grass of his native hills and valleys, for these are not to be found anywhere in the far South, but this want is more than atoned for by the abundance, variety and charm of the semi-tropical water scenery that lies in every direction. In point of scenic beauty the Eustis Lake Region has no equal in this part of the world.



As a Health Resort

It is an easy matter to assert that this place or that is the most healthful in the country. But we, when we make this claim for Eustis, can give the facts upon which the claim is based; and these facts are always open to investigation. (1) According to Government figures the residence portion of our town is from one hundred and eighty to two hundred and twenty-five feet above the level of the sea. This gives us a greater elevation than that of any resort of equal size in the State. (2) We have many clear water lakes



EUSTIS PARK



STREET SCENE SHOWING LAKE IN DISTANCE

nearby, but no marshes close enough at hand to hurt us. Typhoid fever, diphtheria and pneumonia, like polar bears and icebergs, are things we read about in Northern papers. Being on a hill, we have perfect drainage, (4) We are seldom bothered with the high winds that

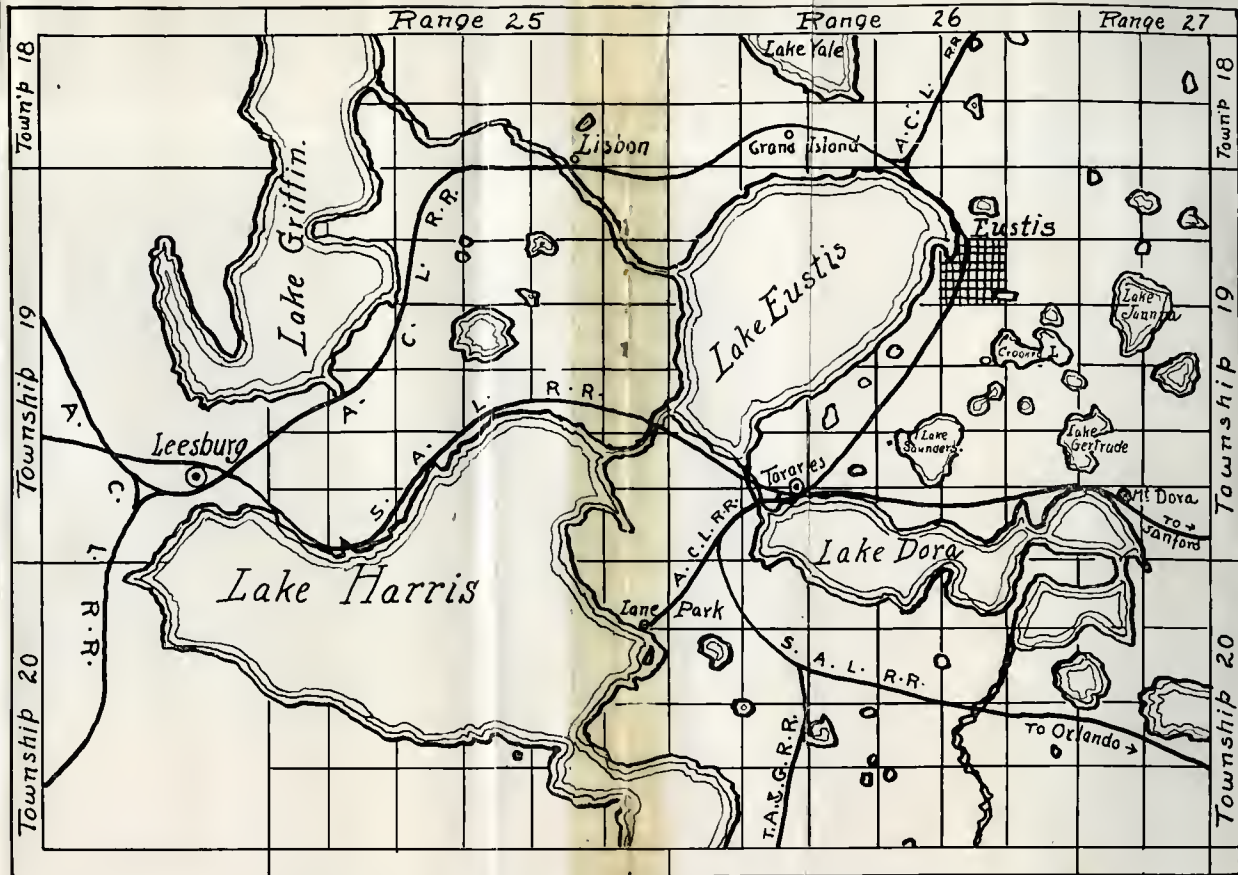


A GLIMPSE OF FAIRYLAND

make the coast counties so disagreeable during the winter months. (5) Owing to our porous soil, and to our elevation, our air is not generally very heavy and humid as it is on the seaboard. (6) In the low country of Florida, the water is often undrinkable, on account of the lime and sulphur in it. Here, it is perfectly pure and soft. (7) The mischievous anopheles, the species of mosquito that carries malarial germs, is all but unknown in Eufla, though common enough in many parts of the State. In winter, we are not annoyed with insects. (8) In California and the arid southwest, the dust never lies; even in those parts of Florida where the roads are made of limestone or shell, it is a perpetual discomfort; but here, owing to a peculiarity of our sandy soil, there is absolutely no dust away from the clay roads; and even on them, it is noticeable only after prolonged drought. Our atmosphere is redolent with the balm of innumerable pines; and fresh with the salt from two oceans—to breathe it is a delight that no man can rightly value till he has tried it.

Our Climate

Our weather at the best is incomparable: it is the Indian summer of the North without the undertone of melancholy; bright, warm, soothing to the senses, a thing of beauty and a constant joy. Let it be clearly understood, however, that we do not claim a **perfect** climate. The fields of Elysium do not lie in this direction; and we have no desire to bring people here by false pretenses. We have wet days, cold days, windy days, dull days; but whatever we have, it is always the best going. Many who would be pleased to have three pleasant days a month in the North will complain if there are three bad ones here—we do not want that class of visitors, for all we can say for our climate is that it is the best in the United States.



EUSTIS AND VICINITY, - LAKE CO. FLA.



A COUNTRY ROAD NEAR EUSTIS

San Diego, California, the warmest place outside of Florida, has a mean temperature for December, January and February of 54.7; Phoenix, Arizona, 52.2; Albuquerque, N. M. 35.4; El Paso, Texas, 48.8; and Eustis, 59.6—five degrees better than San Diego! Moreover, we do not have the choky, alkali-laden air, the cold nights, and bleak winds of the Southwest; and, as we have seen, the excessive dampness of the low coast regions of our own State does not extend to the hills of the interior, except at rare intervals, and for brief periods.

As a Pleasure Resort

But we are not compelled to rest our case upon the general salubrity of our climate. The Lake Region, with its great water area, its hills and its woods, is a veritable paradise for the sportsman and the pleasure seeker. Lake Eustis on which the town is built (the residence portion is high above the level of the lake), is seven miles across. It connects, through the weirdly picturesque Dead River, at a distance of about a half mile, with Lake Harris, fifteen miles long; and through the Ocklawaha River with Lake Griffin, another large body of water. We have also canal connection, navigable at high water, with Lakes Apopka and Dora. Of fishing in our many lakes there is no end. Bass, bream, pickerel, perch and catfish are caught in vast numbers. We have a steamboat that plies for the benefit of the public; and the largest fleet of private launches in the interior of Florida. In fine weather, that is about three-fourths of the time, picnics and fishing expeditions are the order of the day; and as there is practically no limit to the number of different trips that may be made, the charm never palls.



ROUGH WEATHER ON LAKE EUSTIS

The Town and How to Reach It

In the foregoing part of this brochure we have dwelt upon the beauty of our situation, the healthfulness of our climate, and the facilities for pleasuring, because it is the combination of these that gives to Eustis its preeminence as an inland winter resort. Of the town itself it is not needful to speak at length. Let it suffice to say that Eustis is abundantly able to take care of its large and ever growing tourist business. The winter population is from twelve to fifteen hundred, from every part of the country. We have four churches, a first-class high-school, a telephone system, an ice factory and cold storage plant, a mineral well, a Kieselguhr mine, a weekly paper, a library and reading room, a first-class tourist hotel, a rooming hotel, a transient hotel, a bank, four real estate men, three livery stables, a laundry, lawyers, doctors, merchants of all sorts, numberless orange groves, good trucking land, a promising potato industry—in brief everything that is necessary for our own welfare and pleasure as well as for those of our visitors.

But this is not all. Eustis is growing rapidly. The great freeze of ninety-five fell heavily upon this part of Florida: in a single night thousands of orange groves went down to ruin and prosperity was turned to desolation. In many parts of the State the blow was fatal; but to us prosperity has returned once more; and our town is building up more rapidly than ever. Before this pamphlet can reach the public, it will be out of date, on account of the many improvements now pending. A franchise has been granted for a street railway, and work will soon begin. Preparations are being made for city water and an electric light plant. The vacant houses have all been bought, and building is in progress on every hand. The Presbyterian Church, North, of the State of Florida, in a recent meeting held in this town, decided through its representatives to establish a college here. Buildings have been secured, and plans completed to open the institution next Autumn.



ON THE LAKE SHORE

To reach us you take the A. C. L. train at Jacksonville and come either by way of Sanford or by way of Leesburg—the latter route being generally preferred. Or you may come to Tavares, four miles away, over the S. A. L., thence by hack to Eustis; or you may wait there a few hours and make connection with the A. C. L. A third route is by steamer on St. Johns River from Jacksonville to Astor, and from there to Eustis by rail.

June, 1905.



THE PALMS—RESIDENCE



BASS FISHING ON DEAD RIVER

**The
Best
For**

**Sport
Health
Climate
Scenery**

**The Largest System of Lakes
in Florida.**